

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 029477

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ORIGIN SS-25

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----- 077194

O P 080239Z FEB 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

S E C R E T STATE 029477

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MARR, JA

SUBJECT:PROPOSED CHANGES IN US AIR FORCE STRUCTURE IN
PACIFIC

1. DEPARTMENT HAS LEARNED INFORMALLY THAT, AS PART OF CONTINUING EFFORT TO REDUCE HEADQUARTERS STAFF AND ACHIEVE GREATER ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY OF MANAGEMENT, AIR FORCE PROPOSES TO STREAMLINE ITS COMMAND STRUCTURE IN THE PACIFIC. THE CONTEMPLATED CHANGES WOULD AFFECT JAPAN AS FOLLOWS:
A) FIFTH AIR FORCE WOULD BE ELIMINATED. B) COMMANDER OF 313TH AIR DIVISION WOULD SHIFT TO YOKOTA. COMMANDER WOULD BE A LIEUTENANT GENERAL AND WOULD, CONCURRENTLY, HOLD COMUSJ HAT. C) COMMANDER, 313TH DIVISION, WOULD BE UNDER THE OVERALL COMMAND OF CINCPAC BUT WOULD REPORT THROUGH
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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 029477

COMMANDER, 13TH AIR FORCE, LOCATED AT CLARK AF, THE

PHILIPPINES. THE PRESENT 7TH AIR FORCE WOULD ALSO BE CONSOLIDATED UNDER THE 13TH AIR FORCE. D) COMMANDER 314TH AIR DIVISION WOULD ALSO REPORT THROUGH COMMANDER 13TH AIR FORCE.

2. IN A RELATED MOVE, A TAC C-130 SQUADRON (16 PLANES) WOULD RELOCATE FROM KADENA TO YOKOTA. THIS SQUADRON WOULD CONTINUE TO REPORT DIRECTLY TO TAC HEADQUARTERS IN CONUS.

3. THE PROPOSED CHANGES WOULD RESULT IN A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION OF THE HEADQUARTERS STAFF AT YOKOTA, BUT REQUIREMENT FOR KPCP FACILITIES AT YOKOTA WOULD NOT CHANGE. SOME OF VACATED FACILITIES WOULD BE UTILIZED BY C-130 SQUADRON, AND REST WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THOSE NOW LIVING IN SUB-STANDARD HOUSING. TRANSFER OF C-130 SQUADRON HOWEVER WOULD ALLOW SOME JFAP PROJECTS AT KADENA TO BE DROPPED.

4. FOR TOKYO: DEPARTMENT HAS MADE POINT WITH DOD THAT COMMAND STRUCTURE WHICH HAS US AIR FORCES IN JAPAN UNDER OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF US COMMANDER IN PHILIPPINES MAY CAUSE POLITICAL PROBLEMS FOR GOJ. NEVERTHELESS AIR FORCE IS UNDER GREAT BUDGETARY AND CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE TO REDUCE HEADQUARTERS STAFF, AND SOME RESTRUCTURING MAY BE INEVITABLE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBLE GOJ REACTION TO PROPOSAL AND ANY SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW IT MIGHT BE MADE MORE POLITICALLY PALATABLE IN JAPAN. IN NO RPT NO CASE WOULD WE PROCEED WITH ACTION WITHOUT FULL ADVANCE CONSULTATION WITH GOJ.

5. FOR MANILA: THIS INFO OBVIOUSLY IS AT VARIANCE WITH THAT PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED YOU IN STATE 23676 AND REPRESENTS SWITCH IN SIGNALS BY DOD.

6. FOR SEOUL: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY EMBASSY COMMENT.

KISSINGER

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NNN

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